

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/781,332	IWAMURA, KEIICHI
	Examiner FIRMIN BACKER	Art Unit 3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS**. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3 to 9, 11 to 34, 36 to 42, and 44 to 64.
3.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All
  - b)  Some\*
  - c)  None
  1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

1. Claims 1, 3 to 9, 11 to 34, 36 to 42, and 44 to 64 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
  - a. Applicant disclose a system to decrease the likelihood that an image processing apparatus is used to make unauthorized images by setting information to specify a seller or a buyer of the image processing apparatus inside it. As a result, if the output image were an unlawful image, the seller or the buyer could be specified from the user information multiplexed the output image. Applicant inventive concept is novel and innovative in the sense that it provides an information setting means for setting, in an image processing apparatus, information of a seller or a buyer of the image processing apparatus, the information being obtained through the network; and multiplexing means for multiplexing the information of the seller or buyer of the image processing apparatus set by the information setting means to an output image to be printed by the image processing apparatus so as to facilitate identification of the seller or the buyer of the image processing apparatus from the output image, wherein the set information multiplexed to the output image is not visible in the output image. Benton (US Patent No. 4,962,325) teach an invention that relates generally to electronic funds transfer systems, and more particularly to a unique electronic funds transfer system incorporating facsimile machines both to transfer funds data between buyers and sellers at a common point of sale or at remote locations and to print transaction records including facsimile signatures of the parties. Saito et al (US Patent No. 6182218) teach an invention that relates to a

system for managing digital content, specifically for managing a copyright of digital content claiming the copyright and for securing secrecy of digital content. Benton taken alone or in combination with Saito et al fail to teach or suggest an information setting means for setting, in an image processing apparatus, information of a seller or a buyer of the image processing apparatus, the information being obtained through the network; and multiplexing means for multiplexing the information of the seller or buyer of the image processing apparatus set by the information setting means to an output image to be printed by the image processing apparatus so as to facilitate identification of the seller or the buyer of the image processing apparatus from the output image, wherein the set information multiplexed to the output image is not visible in the output image.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

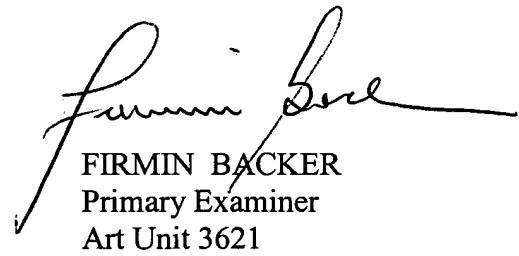
***Conclusion***

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. (*see form 892*).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FIRMIN BACKER whose telephone number is 571-272-6703. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (571) 272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



FIRMIN BACKER  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3621

June 20, 2006